

131408Z Nov 01

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ1550

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ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00  
SRPP-00 DS-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 LAB-01 VCE-00  
DCP-01 NSAE-00 EPAE-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0259  
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

CONFIDENTIAL HARARE 003367

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER  
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU  
LONDON FOR GURNEY  
PARIS FOR NEARY

E.O. 12958: DECL. 10/31/11

TAGS: PREL PGOV PHUM ZI

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR AND VICE PRESIDENT MSIKA DISCUSS  
TERRORISM,  
LAND REFORM, RULE OF LAW, ELECTION OBSERVATION

CLASSIFIED BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER BRUCE WHARTON. REASONS:  
1.5. (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY

11. (C) IN AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN'S INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH MSIKA ON NOVEMBER 8, THE VICE PRESIDENT OFFERED HIS VIEW OF ZIMBABWE'S RECENT HISTORY AND A SPIRITED DEFENSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE'S (GOZ) RECORD ON RULE OF LAW AND LAND REFORM. HE PLEDGED CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL EFFORT AGAINST TERRORISM AND SPOKE OF GOZ UMBRAGE AT THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) DEMAND THAT INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS BE INVITED TO ZIMBABWE. MSIKA ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE US WAS UNFAIRLY CRITICAL OF THE GOZ, SPECIFICALLY NOTING THE POSSIBILITY OF SANCTIONS UNDER THE ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT (ZDERA). END SUMMARY.

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12. (U) AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN OPENED THE MEETING BY THANKING MSIKA FOR GOZ SUPPORT IN THE GLOBAL EFFORT AGAINST TERRORISM. THE AMBASSADOR MADE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS ABOUT THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR AND RECEIVED MSIKA'S ASSURANCE THAT ZIMBABWE UNDERSTOOD THE ISSUES AND WOULD MAINTAIN A STRONG POSITION AGAINST TERRORISM.

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14. (C) AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN RESPONDED THAT HE WELCOMED THE VICE PRESIDENT'S FRANKNESS AND WOULD ALSO SPEAK PLAINLY. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE US HAD SUPPORTED AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE SINCE BEFORE THE KENNEDY ERA, HAD OPPOSED THE IAN SMITH GOVERNMENT AND HAD SUPPORTED MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE US HAD PROVIDED OVER US\$700 MILLION SINCE 1980 IN FULFILLMENT OF THE PLEDGE IT MADE AT THE LANCASTER HOUSE NEGOTIATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE US SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLES AGREED TO AT THE 1998 DONORS' CONFERENCE ON LAND REFORM IN ZIMBABWE, BUT THAT ZIMBABWE HAD DEVIATED FROM THOSE PRINCIPLES. HE SPOKE OF THE VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH POLITICS AND LAND REFORM AND SAID THAT THE RULE OF LAW HAD NOT BEEN FOLLOWED IN ZIMBABWE. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE ZDERA, POINTED

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HUNGER FOR LAND, THE PEOPLE'S ANGER, AND THE PRESENCE OF "CRIMINALS MASQUERADE AS EX-COMBATANTS," RESULTED IN THE OCCUPATION OF FARMS THAT DID NOT MEET THE GOZ CRITERIA FOR SEIZURE. AS EVIDENCE OF THE GOZ DETERMINATION TO ABIDE BY THE RULE OF LAW, HE DETAILED HIS EFFORTS TO REMOVE MORE THAN 600 FARMS FROM THE LIST OF PROPERTIES APPROVED FOR SEIZURE. HE DID NOT EXPLAIN HOW FARMS THAT DID NOT MEET GOZ CRITERIA FOR ON TO SAY THAT THE GOZ HAD NEVER DEVIATED FROM ITS PRINCIPLED STAND ON LAND REFORM OR THE RULE OF LAW, AND THAT THE ABUJA AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER CONFIRMED THE JUSTICE OF ITS POLICIES AND ACTIONS. MSIKA SAID THAT ZIMBABWE'S LAND PROBLEMS EXISTED BEFORE THE ABUJA AGREEMENT AND WOULD TAKE MORE TIME TO RESOLVE. HE AGAIN MADE THE POINT THAT ZIMBABWE HAD "SUFFERED FROM LAND REFORM, RULE OF LAW, ELECTION OBSERVATION

INTERNATIONAL INTERFERENCE THAT COMPLICATED OUR PATH." AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN URGED MSIKA TO PREVENT FUTURE VIOLENCE AND TO CONTINUE TO MOVE INVADERS OFF OF ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED FARMS.

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WE ARE NOT THE ENEMY

17. ( C ) MSIKA ENDED THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT ZIMBABWE NEEDED THE US - NEEDED ITS BUSINESS, ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT. HE THEN ASKED WHY THE US WANTED TO "MAKE ZIMBABWE YOUR ENEMY - WE ARE NOT THE ENEMY." MSIKA RECOUNTED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN THE US DURING THE 1988 ELECTIONS AND HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE ABILITY OF AMERICANS FROM DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES TO DISCUSS ISSUES. HE SAID THAT HAD TAUGHT HIM AN IMPORTANT LESSON ABOUT DIALOGUE BETWEEN PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW AND THAT

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COMMENT

18. ( C ) VICE PRESIDENT MSIKA'S VERSION OF ZIMBABWE'S RECENT ON LAND REFORM AND RULE OF LAW, FOLLOWS VERY CLOSELY RECENT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT MUGABE AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING GOZ OFFICIALS. THEY CLEARLY HAVE A UNIFIED SET OF TALKING POINTS. THAT BOTH MUGABE AND MSIKA MADE THE EFFORT TO OFFER THE AMBASSADOR A LENGTHY HISTORY LESSON -ALBEIT A ONE-SIDED ONE - INDICATES BOTH THEIR VIEW OF THE WORLD AND THEIR BELIEF THAT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR APPRECIATE THAT VIEW. IN SPITE OF VP MSIKA'S PROFESSED DESIRE FOR OPEN, FRANK DISCUSSION, THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE MUCH ROOM FOR ALTERNATIVE POINTS OF VIEW ON HOW ZIMBABWE HAS COME TO ITS CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS. RECENT

MEETINGS WITH VP MSIKA AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INDICATE THE US ACCESS TO THE GOZ HAS IMPROVED FOR THE TIME BEING. THE TOP ZANU-PF LEADERSHIP SEES THIS EXERCISE AS ONE OF PERSUADING US NOT TO BE THEIR ENEMIES RATHER THAN LISTENING TO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS.

19. (C) ON NOVEMBER 12, THE AMBASSADOR WAS CONVOKED TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON ZIMBABWE'S OTHER VICE PRESIDENT, SIMON MUZENDA; SLIGHTLY OLDER THAN VP MSIKA (79 V 1S. 77), SLIGHTLY MORE IRRELEVANT, AND EQUALLY LOYAL TO PRESIDENT MUGABE. THE MEETING WAS EVEN LESS SUBSTANTIVE WITH MUCH OF THE CONVERSATION DEVOTED TO TELLING MUZENDA WHY THE RHODESIANS' LABELING OF

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SULLIVAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 003367

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